

THE POLYNESIAN.

"PRO BONO PUBLICO."

SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 1840.

The Flora brings regular files of papers up to the time of her leaving New York, January 7th. They contain no additional political news of importance, which has not been received by previous arrivals from Mexico. A deep gloom seems to pervade the whole mercantile community. Failures were numerous, and the panic and distress beyond comparison greater than during the pressure of 1837. This is principally owing to the unsettled state of the currency, and business and manufactures being pushed beyond the wants or capital of the country. United States Bank Stock has been down to \$60. Mobile was nearly destroyed by fire, loss \$450,000. Extensive conflagrations have also occurred in New York, Boston and Philadelphia. The yellow fever was raging at the south, and the small pox in Boston. All the banks south of New York had suspended specie payments. Marcus Morton is elected Governor of Massachusetts, by the opponents to the license law.

GREAT AND IMPORTANT NEWS BY WAY OF MEXICO.

The brig William, Captain Underwood, from St. Blas, brings intelligence that war has been declared by England against China, and a large army is on its way thither, with a demand of \$50,000,000, as an indemnification for injuries received by English subjects. If refused, war is to be vigorously prosecuted until the demands are complied with. Should Russia join China, it will probably lead to a general European war, in which France, England, and other liberal powers will be obliged to join arms, to check the progress of the two greatest despotisms in the world. In such an event, we should behold freedom, truth and civilization contending for existence with despotism and slavery. The minor questions of interest or honor, would be merged in the nobler causes of rights of man, and who can doubt that triumph would not be on the side of truth and justice. China, in refusing to receive knowledge from other countries, has passed her zenith, and become weaker, while her "barbarian" neighbors have increased in strength. Russia is an empire of slaves, a vast despotism of which Napoleon truly said, "that if not conquered herself, she would conquer the rest of the world," and certainly the signs of the times appear to argue that the contest is not far distant.

Dates from the United States to March 25th, show that the newspaper war upon the boundary question is raging with much acrimony, though the governments are taking no hostile measures.

TABLES TURNED IN CALIFORNIA, AND THE IMPRISONED FOREIGNERS RELEASED.

Upon the arrival of the prison ship at St. Blas, from Monterey, containing the prisoners, they were immediately released by the authorities of Mexico, and their jailers incarcerated in turn. We understand that these men have the modesty to present a claim for some millions of dollars for damages.

February last, the French ministry were dissolved.

Formal possession has been taken by the British government of New Zealand as a Colony of the Empire, and William Hobson, Esq., R. N., appointed Lieutenant Governor, under Sir George Gipps, Governor General of New South Wales and its dependencies. The proclamation of Lieutenant Governor Hobson on his arrival at the Bay of Islands in H. B. M. ship Herald, will be found in another column. The measures of the new government were exciting a deep interest in Sydney, as it was expected that an attempt would be made to deprive those who had purchased land from the native chiefs of all beyond a certain quantity, and much difficulty was anticipated from this source. Gov. Hobson has also declared that in future no purchases or grants of lands to British subjects from the natives will be considered valid unless sanctioned by the crown. A detachment of troops accompanied Lieut. Gov. Hobson in the Herald to preserve order. At the last advices all was quiet, and the natives appeared gratified at the prospect of some government being established which could protect them from the aggressions of foreigners and also preserve peace among themselves.

H. B. M. Sloop Favorite, Commander W. Croker, arrived at Tahiti May 13, from Sydney, via New Caledonia, New Hebrides and Samoa. Captain Croker touched at Eramango, where the late lamented Mr. Williams and his companion Mr. Harris, were murdered by the natives in November last, and after some difficulty, succeeded through the medium of two chiefs from the neighboring island of Tanna, in establishing an intercourse and obtaining the skulls and a portion of the other bones of these martyrs to their missionary zeal.* Another European skull was also brought to Capt. Croker which the natives declared to be that of a man killed some months previous to Mr. Williams's landing. The remains were buried at Upolu in front of the new chapel at Apie. Capt. Croker did not consider it advisable to punish the natives in any way for their past offences, but endeavored by promises and the distribution of presents to create a more friendly feeling toward the whites, at the same time giving them to understand that any fresh outrage would be severely punished.

It was the opinion of Capt. Croker that a way for the introduction of christianity and civilization was now effectually opened at the New Hebrides, as the Samoan teachers left at Tanna had been most kindly received by the chiefs, who had even built for them comfortable houses, and manifested much interest in their doctrines. The intercourse between Tanna and the other islands of the group is so frequent, that it would exert a powerful influence upon them in the event of its conversion to christianity.

The Favorite sailed on the 23d for Sydney, and would touch on her way at the Feejees for the purpose of ascertaining the truth of a report that the crews of several British vessels which had suffered shipwreck were held in captivity by the natives.

* Mr. Williams's body was devoured by the natives.

From the Sydney Colonist of February 22.

PROCLAMATION.

HIS EXCELLENCY WILLIAM HOBSON, Esq., LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF THE BRITISH SETTLEMENT IN PROGRESS IN NEW ZEALAND.

Whereas, Her Majesty Victoria, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, has been graciously pleased to direct, that measures shall be taken for the establishment of a settled form of government over those of Her Majesty's subjects who are already settled in New Zealand, or who may hereafter resort thither; and whereas, Her Majesty has been also graciously pleased to direct Letters Patent to be issued under the Great Seal of the said United Kingdom, bearing date the 15th of June, 1839, by which the former boundaries of the colony of New South Wales are to be extended so as to comprehend any part of New Zealand that is or may be acquired in sovereignty by Her Majesty, her heirs or successors; and whereas Her Majesty has been further pleased by a commission, under the Royal signet and sign manual, and bearing date the 13th day of July, 1839, to appoint me, William Hobson, Esq., a captain in Her Majesty's Royal Navy, to be Lieutenant-Governor in and over any territory which is or may be acquired in sovereignty by Her Majesty, her heirs or successors, within that group of islands in the Pacific Ocean, commonly called New Zealand, and lying between the latitudes of 34 deg. 30 min. and 47 deg. 10 min. south and 106 deg. 5 min. and 170° east longitude, from the meridian of Greenwich; Now, therefore, I, the said William Hobson, do hereby declare and proclaim, that I did, on the 14th day of January instant, before His Excellency Sir George Gipps, Knight, Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief in and over the territory of New South Wales and its dependencies, and the Executive Council thereof, take the accustomed oaths of office as Lieutenant-Governor as aforesaid; and I do hereby further proclaim and declare, that I have this day entered on the duties of my said office as Lieutenant-Governor as aforesaid, and I do call on all Her Majesty's subjects to be aiding and assisting me in the execution thereof.

Given under my hand and seal at Kororarika, the 30th day of January, 1840, in the third year of Her Majesty's reign.

(Signed) WM. HOBSON.

By His Excellency's command,

(Signed) GEO. COOPER.

God save the Queen!!!

Since the establishment of the English colony in New Zealand, the French papers have been incessant in their calls upon the government to insist upon a share in the colonization of that territory. The Chamber of Commerce of Dunkirk has presented to the ministry a long manifesto on the impolicy of allowing the undisputed possession of the colony to its present owners, and urges the immediate planting of the French flag, as an act of sovereignty, upon some part of the island.

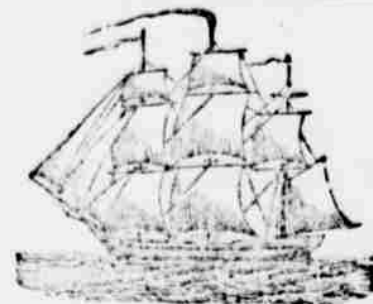
EXTENT OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

The Montreal Herald, speaking of the possessions of Great Britain, says: "On her vast territories the sun never sets. As the evening rays forsake the groves of Honduras, his morning beams strike the spires of Calcutta; and before they disappear from the population of Montreal, they gladden British subjects on the West-

ern shores of New-Holland. The British flag is never struck; and the ships of her navy, her wooden walls, are floating fortresses, with military stations, dotting all over the globe, in every clime and in every sea."

Mr. Webster, in one of his speeches, describes England as a power to which, for purposes of foreign conquest and subjugation, Rome, in the height of her glory, is not to be compared—a power which has dotted over the surface of the whole globe with her possessions and military posts—whose morning drum-beat, following the sun and accompanying the hours, circles the earth daily with one continuous and unbroken strain of the martial airs of England.

MARINE NEWS.



PORT OF HONOLULU.

ARRIVED.

- June 20, American bark Flora, Spring, from New York, January 7, via Valparaiso, 46 days from the latter place. She brings naval stores for the United States Exploring Expedition. The Flora spoke of Staten Island, brig Lama, Brewer hence 77 days, for Boston, passengers all well.
- " 21, American brig William, Underwood, 22 days from St. Blas.
- " 24, Honorable H. B. C. barque Columbia, Humphries, from Columbia River, passage 21 days. Passed ship Lausanne, Spaulding from Sandwich Islands, going in all well.
- " 27, Schooner Clarion, Shaw, from Tahiti, June 6.

SAILED.

- June 23, French brig of war, Le Pylade Felix Bernard, Capitaine de Corvette, for Tahiti and Valparaiso.
- " " Br. brig Clementine, Walker, for Hawaii.
- " 24, Barque North America, Richards, whaling.
- " " Barque Don Quixote, Paty, for California.
- " 25, Brig William, Underwood, for China.

PASSENGERS.

In the Flora, Rev. John Diell, pastor of the Seamen's Chapel in this town. Mr. Diell left this town fourteen months since for his health, which we rejoice to state, is better than when he parted from us, though not so thoroughly reestablished as to admit of his recommencing his pastoral labors immediately. In his voyage round the world he visited China, Batavia, Cape of Good Hope, United States, and Chili.

In brig Clementine, for Hawaii, Mr. J. J. Jarves; Mr. J. P. Couthouy; Mr. Olmsted; Mrs. Thurston, and son; Mr. P. Parker; Mr. H. Grimes; Rev. Messrs. R. Walsh, Ernest, and Bent.

In barque Columbia, Mr. E. O. Hall, lady and child; Mr. Alexander Simpson; Mr. James Steel.

DEATHS.

In this village on the 20th inst. Owana wife of Gideon Laanui, and daughter of John Reeves.

On the 23d, Wiliama Hoohano, student of medicine, aged 20.